

HOUSE RESOLUTION 89

By Moore

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Kenneth Tidwell upon being named the 2008 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our State who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated conservationist is Kenneth Tidwell, owner and operator of the Tidwell Tree Farm, who was recently named as the 2008 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, this annual award recognizes tree farmers that perform an outstanding service in the area of forest and resource management, and promote the tree farm program through action and example; and

WHEREAS, after honorably and heroically serving in the United States Navy, stationed in Okinawa in 1945 and giving several years of service to the United States Army Reserve, he attended Austin Peay State University and George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, earning bachelor and doctoral degrees; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of his university studies, Mr. Tidwell served with the state educational associations of Georgia and Tennessee for several years until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, embarking on a new educational adventure following his retirement, Mr. Tidwell decided to turn his father's farm into a veritable forestry classroom, sharing his enthusiasm for trees with school groups, church groups, new acquaintances, and old friends; and

WHEREAS, the forty-acre Tidwell Tree Farm in Joelton has been in the Tidwell family for sixty years and includes a small stand of pine that Mr. Tidwell helped his father plant in 1948; and

WHEREAS, after acquiring a written forest management plan in 1999, Mr. Tidwell began planting the old fields with new trees in 2000 and gained certification for the property in 2003, designating it as a Tennessee Tree Farm; and

WHEREAS, imbued with an admirable passion for the natural forests of Tennessee, Mr. Tidwell has worked assiduously to develop his tree farm into an ideal environment for native tree species to thrive; planting a mixed species, he has included yellow poplar, pine, maple, hickory, sweet gum, cherry, oak, cedar, and walnut trees; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the new plantings and the older natural hardwood stands, he has set aside an area to create a small scale arboretum for several tree species that are rare and non-native; and

WHEREAS, ever vigilant about the water quality on the farm, Mr. Tidwell has applied several water quality protection measures to his two spring-fed lakes and several streams; these measures include innovative culvert installations, a permanent bridge to allow access during wet weather, and a stream bank stabilization project, which earned him an award and recognition from the Soil Conservation Service; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of tree plantings, the natural forests, the spring-fed lakes and streams, and a few test patches of bamboo create a small oasis and an inviting refuge for wildlife, and the walking trails throughout the farm provide ample opportunity to view a variety of wildlife in their natural habitat; and

WHEREAS, welcoming advice from the Tennessee Division of Forestry and Ted Melton, a consulting forester, and with the help of his son, grandson, and several good friends, Mr. Tidwell's hard work and dedication ensures the tree farm's status as a family forest for several generations to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Montgomery County Forest Association, Mr. Tidwell practices sustainable forestry on his forty-acre farm, making improvements that seem minimal, but prove to be monumental over an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, following in the footsteps of Thoreau and Leopold, Mr. Tidwell has created his own Walden Pond just a few miles away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Nashville, and visitors to the Tidwell Tree Farm can be assured of enjoying the finest of Tennessee's natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Tidwell is a fitting recipient of Tennessee's 2008 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award, and his commitment to responsible stewardship of the land is most assuredly deserving of special recognition by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Kenneth Tidwell upon being named the 2008 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association and thank him for his dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources -- our forestland and wildlife habitat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Mr. Tidwell our best wishes for every success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.